



MCA Does Carlisle

MCA Was Open for Business at The All Ford Nationals in Carlisle

Text and Photos by Josh Bolger

If you have never been able to get to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, during the first week of June to attend the Carlisle All-Ford Nationals, you're missing one of the best and biggest Ford shows on the planet. The 150-acre Carlisle fairground typically has more than 2,000 Ford vehicles on display (with a large Mustang contingent), a huge parts swap meet, classic and modern car corral, and dozens of manufacturers showing their latest goods. Carlisle also happens to be a meeting place for a large number of MCA members; a quick stroll through the Mustang section of the fairgrounds and you'll lose count of the MCA windshield decals.

This year just happened to mark the 40th birthday of the Mustang's little brother, the Pinto; Carlisle celebrated the Pinto as the terminus of the Pinto Stampede which headed out from Denver, Colorado, a few days earlier. Carlisle also hosted Donald Farr and gave Boss 302 lovers the chance to meet the long-time editor of *Mustang Monthly* and to pre-order a copy of Donald's new

book *Mustang Boss 302, From Racing Legend to Modern Muscle Car*, an update of his most coveted *Mustang Boss 302, Ford's Trans-Am Pony Car*, long out of print and known to easily auction for \$500 on eBay.

Carlisle has much to offer both the hardcore Ford man and casual fan, and even something for the family members that may not appreciate 2,000 Fords. Located about two hours north of Washington, DC, Carlisle is situated in the Appalachian Great Valley at the halfway point on the Appalachian Trail, surrounded by idyllic farms and panoramic vistas of the Appalachians, at the intersection of the historic Pennsylvania Turnpike (also known as Interstate 76) and Interstate 81. Only 30 or so miles north of the Civil War battlefield of Gettysburg and surrounded by endless antique shops a trip to Carlisle can make the whole family happy with plenty of diversions nearby.

For 2011, the MCA decided to have a more official presence in Carlisle and that presence was a good outreach for the club and a great venue to recruit new members. In the middle of the

manufacturers the MCA pitched a tent and made its presence known to the crowds of Carlisle. Hard to believe, but there are Mustang fans out there that haven't heard of the MCA, and being in Carlisle is one great way of getting the word to the uninformed.

The husband and wife team of "Shorty" and Patsy Brown, along with fellow BOD members George Valeri and Randy Cunningham, were on deck for the MCA selling both MCA gear and memberships along with promoting the upcoming national events, two of which (Mustangs at the Beach and Monuments and Mustangs) are just a few hours driving time from Carlisle. One of my favorite pieces of MCA promotion is the coloring book for those little Mustang enthusiasts who will one day be the future of the MCA.

If the opportunity arises for you to attend Carlisle's All Ford Nationals and join your fellow MCA members on the fairgrounds, don't miss it! You won't be disappointed and neither will your family. **MT**

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▲ Ford's display of the new Boss 302 gave the Carlisle crowd a chance to see the Boss from the bottom up.



▲ The Saleen Owner's club was well represented at Carlisle.



▲ Scott Hoag and his crew from MRT made their way to Carlisle and set up shop. Here Scott is installing MRT's rear slats on a late model Mach1.



▲ Michael Blissman's 1976 Cobra II.



▲ Roush Performance and Roush Fenway Racing offered shiny new Mustangs and bits and pieces of NASCAR stock car from the Roush Fenway stables.



▲ Kirby Place brought his 1969 Mach1 to Carlisle. Kirby has owned the car since 1979 and his restored the Mach1 with his father's help. Kirby's car competes in Modified, yet retains the original 351 and four speed. As Kirby put it, all the modifications were done with the ability to "unbolt" them if he wanted to. By the way his Mach1 has more than a quarter of a million miles on the clock.

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▲ Michael Geata's nice looking 1972 convertible.



▲ We just loved this hood.



▲ How about a medallion winning car to represent the MCA? Sam Graybill's 1983 GT convertible makes an outstanding impression.



▲ Looking for a great unmolested 1985 Mustang GT, Carlisle had this beautiful 13,000-mile car in the car corral.

